

REMARKS

This paper amends the allowed claims (1-11) in a way believed to address matters of form only, and also adds new claims 12-17. Thus, claims 1-17 are now pending.

For claims 1-11, parenthetical reference labels are removed, the use of the word "step" is eliminated as is the use of the word "characterized," and all acronyms are eliminated. In addition, new claims 12-17 are added, of which claims 12 and 13 are independent, and correspond to allowed claims 10 and 11. Finally, new claims 14-17, depending from new claim 13, correspond to allowed method claims 2, 3, 5 and 6.

For ease of reading, a set of claims as amended but without change tracking is attached.

It is believed that all of the claims of the application are still in condition for allowance and their passage to issue is earnestly solicited.

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